

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14

SAB-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /128 W

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P 230733Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5736

INFO USMTM DHAHRAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

SECDEF PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 5658

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: MODA REQUEST FOR RSAF SURVEY

1. SUMMARY: MIN DEF SULTAN REQUESTS USG TO DEVELOP MASTER PLAN FOR RSAF DEVELOPMENT OVER NEXT 5-10 YEARS. USMTM BELIEVES ITS USAF SECTION, AUGMENTED WITH SOME TDY ASSISTANCE, CAN DEVELOP PLAN OVER NEXT FTO8#MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN DECEMBER 13 MEETING WITH MIN DEF SULTAN, SULTAN REQUESTED USG CONDUCT SURVEY OF ALL FACETS OF ROYAL SAUDI AIR FORCE AND PRODUCE MASTER PLAN FOR RSAF DEVELOPMENT OVER NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS. PLAN SHOULD ADDRESS ITSELF NOT ONLY TO FUTURE AIRCRAFT NEEDS, BUT ALSO TO AIRFIELDS AND BASE FACILITIES, AIR DEFENCE, ARMAMENTS, AND MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS. SULTAN SHOWED AMBASSADOR LETTER FROM KING AUTHORIZING SULTAN TO MAKE REQUEST. KING'S LETTER CONTAINED FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. NO NEW TYPE AIRCRAFT (MIRAGE, JAGUAR, OR F-4, INTERPOLATED SULTAN) SHOULD BE ACQUIRED UNTIL MASTER PLAN IS COMPLETED.

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B. THE USG SHOULD BE ASKED TO CONDUCT THE NECESSARY SURVEY AND

DEVELOP THE NEEDED PLAN; IT SHOULD THEN BE ASKED TO IMPLEMENT PLAN ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS.

C. RSAF SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH BETTER (MORE SOPHISTICATED) AMMUNITION AND ARMAMENTS THAN NOW ON HAND.

D. WHILE STUDY IS IN PROCESS, MODA SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO ORDER ADDITIONAL F-5B'S AND F-5E'S (SULTAN MENTIONED 30-50). MASTER PLAN SHOULD, HOWEVER, CONTAIN RECOMMENDATION OF FOLLOW-ON AIR-CRAFT BEST SUITED TO RSAF.

E. ONCE THE MASTER PLAN IS COMPLETED IT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS A TOTAL PACKAGE AND IN ITS ENTIRETY--NO PIECEMEAL PROGRAMS DESIRED.

F. TIME IS IMPORTANT. PROCEED QUICKLY. SAG IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT USG RECOMMENDATIONS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE.

3. SULTAN FOLLOWED UP ORAL REQUEST WITH WRITTEN REQUEST SAME DAY. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS  
QUOTE: DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR,  
ROYAL SAUDI AIR FORCE OPERATIONS ARE TECHNICAL AND ADVANCED IN NATURE, REQUIRING PLANNING AND CAREFUL PREPARATION SO THAT THE AIR FORCE MAY BE ABLE TO MANAGE, OPERATE, AND PROVIDE MAINTENANCE FOR THE MOST MODERN TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT. IT IS ESSENTIAL, THEREFORE, THAT THE AIR FORCE WORK OUT AN INTEGRATED PALN FOR EXPANDING ITS VARIOUS FACILITIES SO THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THE AIR FORCE WITH MORE SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT AND TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO IMPROVE ITS DEFENSIVE FIGHTING ABILITY.

ON THE BASIS OF WHAT WE DISCUSSED WITH YOU THIS MORNING, THURSDAY 19/11/1393H (12/13/1973) IN THIS CONNECTION, WE REQUEST YOU TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS WITH THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FOLLOWING:

1. SENDING A U.S. TECHNICAL SURVEY TEAM COMPRISING THE DIFFERENT AIR FORCE SECTIONS AND SPECIALTIES, INCLUDING IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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STALLATIONS AND AIRPORTS, TO HELP THE RSAF DRAW UP AN OVERALL PLAN THAT WOULD ACCOMMODATE ALL ITS REQUIREMENTS AND DESIRED OBJECTIVES FOR DEFENDING THE HOMELAND AT PRESENT AND IN THE FUTURE. WE HOPE FOR SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS REQUEST OWING TO THE VARIOUS CHALLENGES AND TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT FACING ALL ARMED SERVICES AND AREAS.

2. PROVIDING THE RSAF WITH MORE EFFECTIVE AMMUNITION (IN

VIEW OF THE SMALL SIZE OF OUR AIR FORCE) TO BOLSTER ITS EFFECTIVENESS, AS REQUESTED IN OUR LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 11, 1973, ADDRESSED TO COLONEL DONALD SWENHOLT, CHIEF OF THE U.S. BRIEFING TEAM ON PHANTOM AIRCRAFT (F-4A).

3. AFTER COMPLETION OF THE SURVEY, PREPARATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AND INITIATION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION. BEFORE THE FINAL PHASE OF THE PEACE HAWK CONTRACT, WE DEEM THAT THE AIR FORCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH ADDITIONAL F-5E AND F-5B AIRCRAFT, NUMBERS TO BE DETERMINED IN THE LIGHT OF THIS SURVEY. THE PLAN SHOULD ALSO FOCUS ON THE QUESTION OF ACQUIRING NEW PLANES FOR THE DESIRED EXPANSIONS IN THE FUTURE.

4. GIVING SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY AND SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS ARMED FORCES, PARTICULARLY THE AIR FORCE, WITH RESPECT TO OBTAINING THE NEEDED AIR TRAINING SLOTS IN PARTICULAR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE USG MIGHT CANCEL THE AIR TRAINING COURSES NEEDED FOR OUR OFFICERS. WE ARE CONCERNED THEREFORE THAT WITHOUT USG SUPPORT AND BACKING OF OUR AIR FORCE PROGRAM, WE WILL ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING QUALIFIED AIR INSTRUCTORS FOR THE PEACE HAWK PROGRAM, AS WELL AS THE C-130 PROGRAM, NOT TO MENTION OUR OTHER NEEDS FOR TRAINING ADDITIONAL STUDENTS IN THE U.S.

NOTE BY OCT: (#) AS RECEIVED.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

SECDEF PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JIDDA 5658

5. CONCLUDING A CONTRACT WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE AIR FORCE (SIZE TO BE DETERMINED IN THE LIGHT OF THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL SURVEY), COMPLETE WITH ALL EQUIPMENT, TO BE MANAGED BY THE USG SIMILAR TO YOUR INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN OFFICERS AND TECHNICIANS AT LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS, SO AS TO UPGRADE THE LINGUISTIC STANDARD OF OUR OFFICERS AND TECHNICIANS IN CONFORMITY WITH VARIOUS STANDARDS AND SPECIALIZATIONS. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT YOU MAY TAKE STEPS TO RAISE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION LEVEL OF OUR STUDENTS BEFORE SENDING THEM TO THE U.S. IN ANY CASE, WE NEED SUCH A PROGRAM, REGARDLESS OF CONDITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

6. WE EXPECT THAT ONE RESULT OF THE TECHNICAL SURVEY WILL BE AN INITIAL REQUIREMENT FOR RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBERS OF TECHNICIANS IN ALL FIELDS TO BE SENT TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION AT VARIOUS TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. AS OUR OWN INSTALLATIONS AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS ARE ESTABLISHED AND DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS TRAINED IN THE STATES WILL BE GRADUALLY REDUCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR DEVELOPMENT.

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7. WE RECOGNIZE THAT OUR PRIORITY IS TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT QUALIFIED MANPOWER, AND WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO MEET THE OBJECTIVE, THROUGH OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS, BEARING IN MIND YOUR MANY CAPABILITIES WHICH WE NEED NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE. THEREFORE, WE LOOK FORWARD TO A POSITIVE ROLE ON YOUR PART TOWARD OUR REQUIREMENTS AS MENTIONED ABOVE.

INASMUCH AS THE TIME FACTOR IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR AIR FORCE, WE HOPE THAT OUR REQUEST WILL BE GIVEN THE NECESSARY PRIORITY AND THAT YOU WILL KEEP US INFORMED. BEST REGARDS, SULTAN BIN ABD AL-AZIZ, MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION AND INSPECTOR GENERAL. END QUOTE.

4. DURING SULTAN'S ORAL PRESENTATION, HE REFERRED TO PROBLEMS OF ABSORBING F-4 INTO RSAF AND NOTED THAT THIS WOULD PLACE A HEAVY BURDEN ON RSAF MANPOWER, INEVITABLY CAUSING DIFFICULTIES FOR THE F-5 AND LIGHTNING PROGRAMS. PERHAPS, SULTAN NOTED, THE SURVEY WOULD CONCLUDE THAT SOME OTHER AIRCRAFT WAS BETTER SUITED FOR THE RSAF--MAYBE THE F-14 OR F-15 AT SOME LATER DATE.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS MAY BE LAST WE HEAR OF F-4'S FROM SAG. WE HAVE KNOWN THAT RSAF COMMITTEE REVIEWING F-4 WAS UNENTHUSIASTIC OVER ACQUIRING AIRCRAFT, CONSIDERING ITS LATE

1950'S TECHNOLOGY TO BE NEARING OBSOLESCENCE AND FEARING ACQUISITION OF THE AIRCRAFT WOULD TIE RSAF TO CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR MAINTENANCE FOR NEXT TEN YEARS. COMMITTEE PREFERRED TO CONCENTRATE ON F-5 UNTIL RYAF HAS DEVELOPED GREATER DEGREE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND TO POSTPONE ACQUISITION OF FOLLOW-ON AIRCRAFT SOME YEARS. IT WOULD APPEAR TO US THAT OPINIONS OF THIS COMMITTEE HAVE NOW PREVAILED. SULTAN DID NOT REQUEST THE F-14/15 IN THE DECEMBER 13 MEETING, BUT HIS OFFICERS ARE FOLLOWING ITS DEVELOPMENT WITH INTEREST, AND IF THE USG SHOULD DECIDE, IN THE PROCESS OF DETERMINING THE BEST COURSE OF FUTURE RSAF DEVELOPMENT, THAT THE F-14/15 IS A LOGICAL FOLLOW-ON AIRCRAFT TO THE F-5, THIS WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE TO THE RSAF.

6. SULTAN HAS ALSO RENEWED REQUEST FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY MADE IN SEPTEMBER 11 LETTER TO HEAD OF F-4 BRIEFING TEAM, COL. DONALD SWENHOLT. EMBASSY/USMTM WILL COMMENT ON THIS REQUEST VIA SEPTEMBER.

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7. EMBASSY HAS CONSULTED WITH CHUSMTM GENERAL HILL, WHO BELIEVES USAF SECTION OF USMTM IS CAPABLE OF DOING LARGEST PART OF SURVEY ITSELF, HAVING, IN FACT, FOR ITS OWN PLANNING PURPOSES, ALREADY ADDRESSED MANY OF THE ISSUES RAISED BY SULTAN. WHERE ADDITIONAL EXPERTISE IS NEEDED, USMTM CAN REQUEST TDY ASSISTANCE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO INSURE ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF RSAF AND EMPHASIZE ADVISORY CAPABILITY OF USMTM, AND UNLESS WASHINGTON PERCEIVES OBJECTION, EMBASSY WILL INFORM SULTAN AFTER 'TD HOLIDAYS (DEC. 30-JAN. 8) THAT USG WILL UNDERTAKE SURVEY. FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF MASTER PLAN, SOMETIME IN SPRING, PLAN WILL BE SUBMITTED TO WASHINGTON FOR STATE AND DOD CONCURRENCE BEFORE BEING PRESENTED TO SULTAN.

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## Message Attributes

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